

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
City of Eugene Oregon
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Independence Day movement initiated by the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, did not include the enslaved descendants of Africans, nor were they recognized as full human beings under the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, June 19 is the freedom forerunner to the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which granted freedom to all slaves born in the United States, and the date is pivotal in our nation's Independence Day movement; and

WHEREAS, in 1997 the 105th United States Congress passed Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56 officially recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, a formal apology for slavery, House Concurrent Resolution 356, was sponsored in the United States Congress by Representative Tony Hall of Ohio at the first annual Washington Juneteenth 2000 National Holiday Observance; and

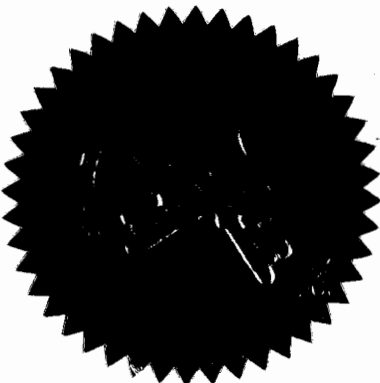
WHEREAS, Idaho, Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, Delaware and Alaska have already recognized the end of slavery in the United States through a Juneteenth state holiday, and thousands of petitions have been sent to the White House urging President Bush to declare June 19 a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, if a Presidential Proclamation were issued, Juneteenth would be recognized as a national holiday and a very significant step would be taken to bring healing in the United States from the devastation caused by slavery;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kitty Piercy, Mayor of the City of Eugene, do hereby proclaim May 20, 2006, to be

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

and ask that the citizens of this city join with me in its observance and celebration.



Kitty Piercy

Kitty Piercy, Mayor
Dated this 10th day of May 2006